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Guided missiles; NIE, SEC, or JIC machinery?

15 March 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Item 6 on IAC Agenda for 16 March ("Soviet Capabilities in Guided Missiles," IAC-D-61)

1. No facts additional to those appearing in subject document and the memorandum for you from the AD/CI, dated 3 March 1954, are known to this Office. (Copies attached.)

2. It is possible that the Service members may raise either or both of the following two points:

a. That the SEC should prepare this Estimate - - If this point is raised, I recommend that CIA's position be that a comprehensive Estimate on Soviet capabilities in guided missiles must include economic, military and related factors which can best be handled by the National Estimates machinery as a whole.

b. That this Estimate be prepared by the JIC, particularly since under DCID 1/4, responsibility for intelligence on guided missiles is primarily a responsibility of the Department of Defense - - In the event that this point is raised, I suggest that the DCI's position should be that DCID 1/4 allocates primary responsibility for the production of Departmental Intelligence and is not applicable to intelligence problems which assume National Intelligence implications.

3. A collateral matter on which we have only unofficial information but which if true, may condition any proposition to be put forward by the Service members of the IAC is as follows - - On 9 March 1954, the Armed Services Policy Council discussed the problem of guided missiles intelligence and requested Mr. Charles (Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Development) to prepare a memorandum to the DCI pointing out the diversity of conclusions in existing Estimates and urging a community effort to produce a definitive Estimate for use of planners at all levels of Government. The memorandum was scheduled for Policy Council approval on March 16 but, due to urgency of another matter, has now been postponed to March 23.

4. [] will be present at the IAC meeting in the event any of the foregoing matters come up for discussion.

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CHARLES KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates

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Concur:

Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence

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